

Chapter 32

32:1-6

Adoration without obedience; bloodshed without covenant; celebration without authorization; fellowship without reverence: These are the tenants of man-made religion.

32:7-10

And the LORD said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt

32:1 shows this is what the people wanted. They wanted no god. They said “Moses brought us out.” God adjusted to their language. They wanted a nation without God. They wanted a religion they could govern. God often gives people what they want. Proverbs 1:30-33 tells the wicked they get filled with what they want. Be careful what you ask for. **have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way** weeks after “all that the Lord has spoken we will do.” They wanted a god they could see now. **which^mI commanded them.**

10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And^lI will make of you a great nation.” God was willing to renew the Abrahamic covenant through Moses. If I were Moses, I would have thought, after 40 days of fasting, “I’m hungry, and...that’s not a bad idea, Lord.”

32:11-14

12 ‘Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? “LORD, I want people to think well of you.” Or “But what are they going to think about you, God?” Can the God of the O.T. save folks from His Own wrath? The timeless character of God is really that which about Moses wishes to know. **Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent** apparently “repent” doesn’t mean to “turn from sin,” otherwise God would have to turn from sinning. God doesn’t sin so **relent** or “repent” cannot mean to “turn from sin.” **from this harm to Your people.**

14 So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. Does God change His mind? Some would say “He knew He was going to turn.” Well, if He did, then did He really turn? If He did really know he was going to turn, then what part did Moses play? He had to be as foreordained as the turning of God. Well, without giving a complete answer which I wish I could do, here’s two thoughts:

1. Exodus 34:6 indicates that God is prone to show mercy. He already leans that way. So, although we don’t know how He got to that action or disposition here in chapter 32, we should say He has a “default” towards mercy. He is like the cop that walks towards our car intending to bring a ticket hoping that the first thing we do is apologize so that he can give us a warning only.
Don’t forget, God is _____ (1 John 4:8): “love.” God is a noun, and as much as I want to remind everybody that God has “wrath,” may we never forget we have no other “thing” that God is. He is love. Jonah knew it, and it aggravated him to no end (Jonah 4:2).
2. God desires for people to intercede. Ezekiel 22:30 speaks of God hoping that somebody gets in the way of His destroying a city, and say “please don’t do that.” How sad that God couldn’t find anybody. In the case of Genesis 18 we have a question between God and angels of what “Abraham would do” with certain news of Sodom’s destruction. Abraham is party to this information and becomes an intercessor. It’s almost as if God prepares people to turn Him. Amos 3:7, compared with 7:1-2 lead me to believe that the primary function of the prophet is intercessory prayer...intercessory prayer that God plans to use Himself to turn Himself.

^mEx. 20:3, 4, 23

^lNum. 14:12

^lNum. 14:13–19